



NEWS RELEASE

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City Launches Indy Birding Trail

INDIANAPOLIS – On Sunday, the City of Indianapolis' Office of Sustainability partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Amos Butler Audubon Society of Central Indiana, the Center for Urban Ecology at Butler University and Indy Parks to launch the Indy Birding Trail. The launch took place at the Virginia B. Fairbanks Art and Nature Park on the grounds of the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

The Indy Birding Trail is designed to guide residents and visitors to 35 of the City's best areas for bird watching. Through the Indy Birding Trail, city parks, green spaces, and environmentally conscious institutions throughout the city are celebrated as havens for biodiversity within an urban setting. The Indy Birding Trail is supplemented by the BirdIndy [website](#), mobile application and trail guide, which will be available online and at sites along the trail.

"The Indy Birding Trail is a new way to showcase our City's green spaces and the diversity of recreational and educational opportunities they have to offer residents and visitors," Office of Sustainability Director Melody Park said. "Furthermore, the trail will draw novice and experienced birdwatchers from around the country to Indianapolis."

Funding for the Indy Birding Trail and the BirdIndy initiative is provided through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds program. In October 2011, Indianapolis joined 19 other cities in signing an Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds. The federal agency has awarded cities challenge grants to fund projects that restore and protect the local bird habitat, and conservation partners will provide matching dollars and in-kind support.

In addition to the Indy Birding Trail, the Office of Sustainability and Indy Parks have partnered to provide increased educational opportunities for students at the Eagle Creek Ornithology Center and outreach programs, such as International Migratory Bird Day, Lights Out Indy and Cats Indoors.

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proud to work with the City of Indianapolis and its partners to engage citizens in ensuring a safe, inviting habitat for birds and people," said Urban Bird Treaty City National Coordinator Alicia King. "We look forward to continuing work with Indianapolis to grow the BirdIndy program."

The Urban Bird Treaty program brings together private citizens, government entities, non-profits and other organizations to conserve migratory birds through education programs, participation in citizen science, conservation and habitat improvement strategies, and the reduction of hazards to birds in urban/suburban areas. The Urban Conservation Treaty Program started in 1999, when New Orleans became the first city to establish an Urban Conservation Treaty. New Urban Bird Treaty cities are joining a program with more than 200 existing partners in nine cities committed to conserving, protecting and restoring habitat and educating urban residents on the importance of migratory birds.